

# Public University Baccalaureate Follow-Up Study

Higher Education Coordinating Board  
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# Introduction

In 2005-06 and 2006-07, more than 39,000 students received bachelor's degrees from a public four-year institution.

## **What happened to those students?**

- Do they find jobs in Washington?
- In what industries do they work in Washington?
- How much do they earn?
- Do they continue their education?

# Profile of Graduates

## Most graduates are:

- From UW (39%) or WSU (20%)
- Residents (90%)
- Female (56%)
- Under the age of 25 (69%)
- White (69%)

# Degree Recipients by Institution

			Grand Total	
Institution	2005-06	2006-07	Number	Percent
Central Washington University	2,000	2,245	4,245	11%
Eastern Washington University	1,715	1,805	3,520	9%
The Evergreen State College	1,234	1,131	2,365	6%
University of Washington	7,658	7,672	15,330	39%
Washington State University	3,119	4,584	7,703	20%
Western Washington University	3,033	3,020	6,053	15%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18,759</b>	<b>20,457</b>	<b>39,219</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Public Centralized Higher Education Enrollment System (PCHEES), provided by ERDC

# About the degrees awarded

**Most of the degrees awarded were Bachelor of Arts (59%).**

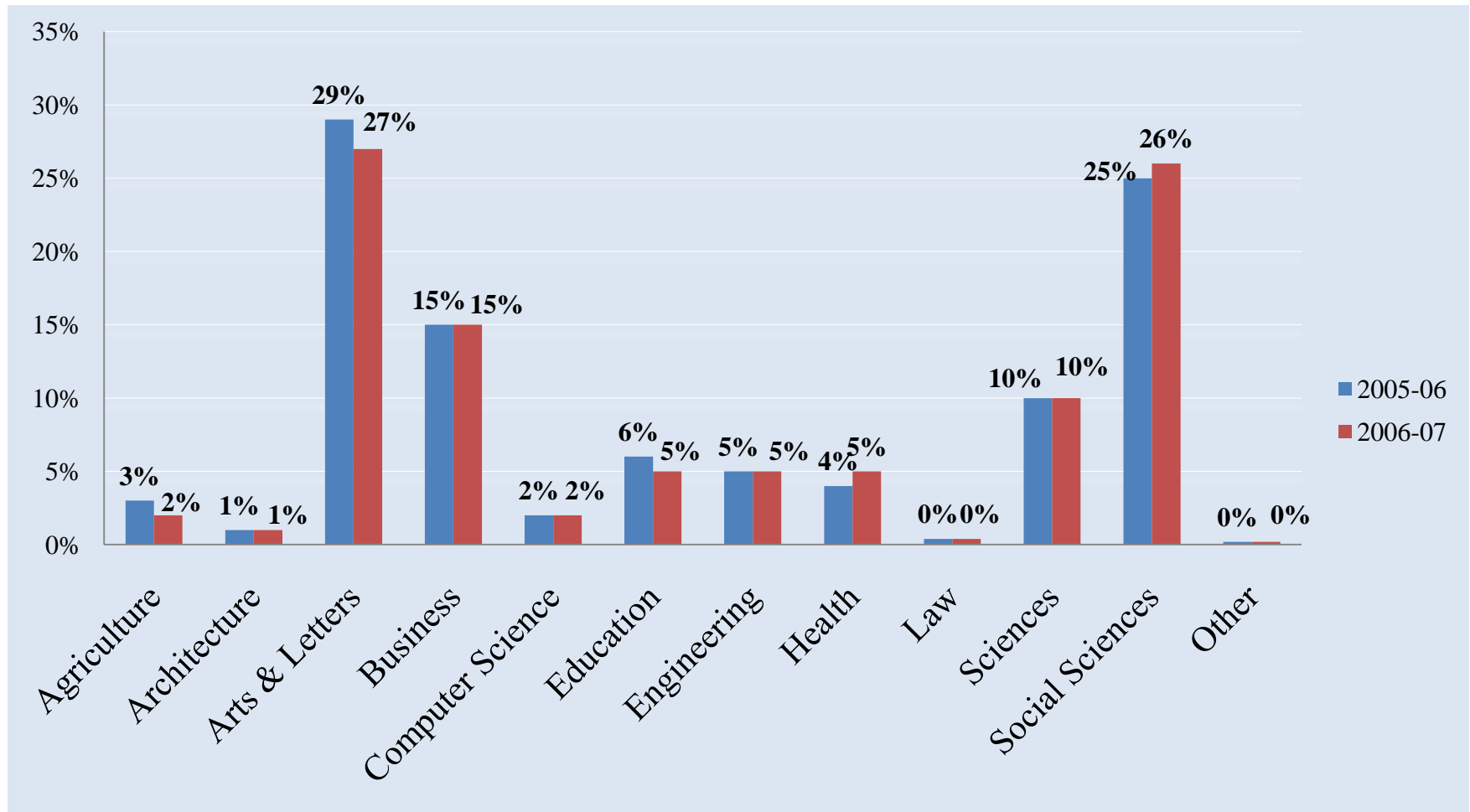
**Most degrees awarded were in:**

- Arts & Letters (27-29%)
- Social Sciences (25-26%)
- Business (15%)

**Approximately 22% were in STEM fields:**

- Science (10%)
- Health (5%)
- Engineering & Related Technologies (5%)
- Computer Science (2%)

# Degrees by Field of Study



Source: Public Centralized Higher Education Enrollment System (PCHEES), provided by ERDC

# Do graduates get jobs in Washington?

**Three-fourths of graduates worked in WA at least one quarter in the first year following graduation.**

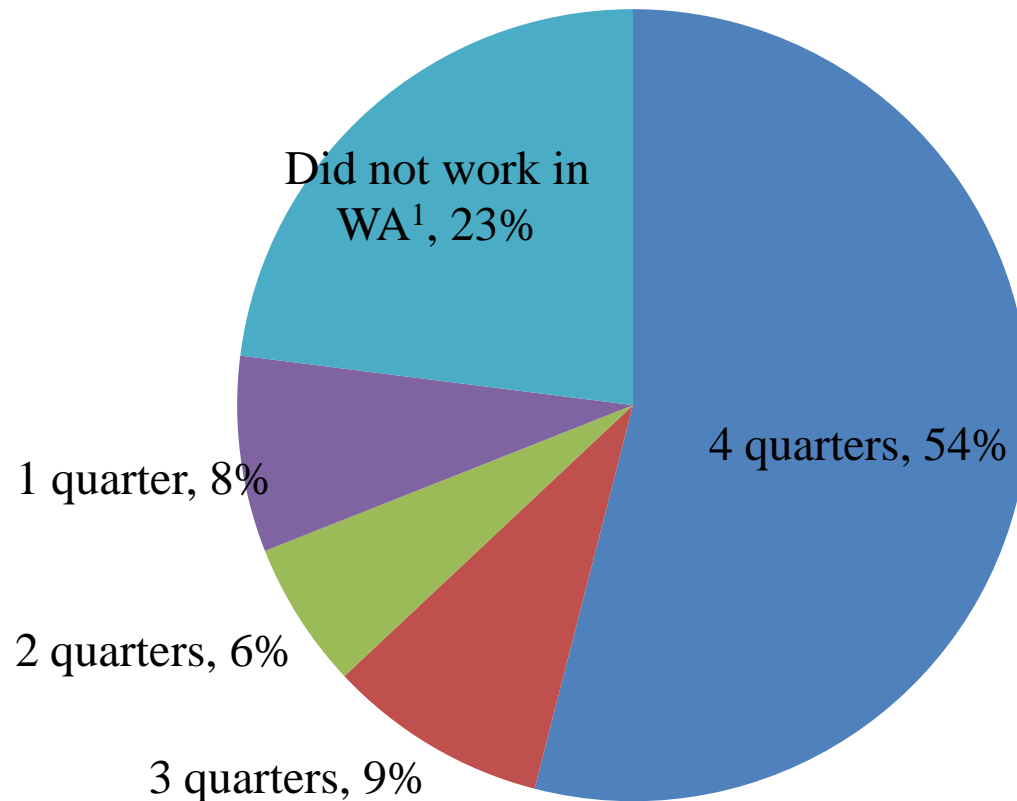
- 64% worked in WA and did not continue education.
- 13% worked in WA and continued education.
- 6% continued education but did not work in WA.
- 18% did not work in WA and did not continue education.

**In the first year, more than half worked all year.**

- Of these, nearly three-fourths worked in the same industry all year.
- The percentage working all year in the same industry increases in the second and third years after graduation.

# Graduates working in Washington

## 2005-06 Graduates: 1 year after graduation



<sup>1</sup>Of the 23% not working in WA, one quarter (25%) were enrolled in a U.S. postsecondary institution.

Sources: Public Centralized Higher Education Enrollment System (PCHEES) & ESD data provided by ERDC.



# Do they remain employed in WA?

- The number of graduates working in Washington declined over time.
- A smaller proportion of 2006-07 graduates worked in Washington compared to the 2005-06 graduates.

	2005-06			2006-07	
	(N=18,759)			(N=20,457)	
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2
	(2006-07)	(2007-08)	(2008-09)	(2007-08)	(2008-09)
<b>Worked in Washington at least one quarter</b>	77%	71%	67%	73%	67%
<b>Enrolled in college - did not work in Washington*</b>	6%	8%	9%	7%	9%
<b>Did not work in Washington* - not enrolled in college</b>	18%	21%	25%	20%	24%

\*Did not work in Washington; graduates may have worked in other states, were self-employed in Washington, or were employed by a Washington non-profit organization.

Sources: Public Centralized Higher Education Enrollment System (PCHEES), ESD data, & National Student Clearinghouse provided by ERDC

# In which industries do they work?

## Top 10 Employing Industries 2005-06 Graduates in Year 1

Industry	Number Employed	Percentage of All Employed
Educational Services	1,775	15%
Professional, Scientific & Support Services	1,517	12%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,401	12%
Retail Trade	1,224	10%
Accommodation & Food Services	972	8%
Finance & Insurance	829	7%
Manufacturing	705	6%
Public Administration	687	6%
Administrative & Support Services	685	6%
Information	492	4%

Employment status determined by third quarter following graduation.

Sources: Public Centralized Higher Education Enrollment System (PCHEES) & ESD data provided by ERDC

# In which industries do they work?

## Top employing industries of the most popular fields of study:

- **Arts & Letters:** Retail Trade, Accommodation & Food Service, Educational Services
- **Social Sciences:** Health Care & Social Assistance, Educational Services, Retail Trade
- **Business:** Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services; Finance & Insurance

# How much do graduates earn?

**Graduates working full-time earned an average of \$36,000 in the first year following graduation.**

- **The 3 highest paying industries:**

- Construction      \$50,000
- Manufacturing      \$49,200
- Information      \$43,200

- **The 3 lowest paying industries:**

- Leisure & Hospitality      \$28,400
- Trade & Transportation      \$31,600
- Other Services      \$31,600

# Do graduates continue their education?

**Approximately 20 percent continued their education someplace in the U.S. in the first year following graduation.**

- 70% enrolled in a WA institution
- 38% also worked all year in WA

# Policy Implications

## **Employability during a recession is different than during “normal” times.**

- It will be difficult to attain the economic growth and development goals of the 2008 Strategic Master Plan if fewer students are working.
- Graduates need to prepare for an increasingly difficult job market and consider alternative employment options.
- However, opportunity exists to increase educational attainment levels because 1 in 5 continue their education within the first year of completing a bachelor's degree.

# Next Steps

**More targeted analyses on sub-populations.**

**Repeat analysis every 2-3 years.**

- Support master plan development and implementation.
- Inform System Design Plan implementation.

**Supplement analysis with findings from institutional alumni surveys, which are better suited for collecting information on specific occupations.**

# Summary

## **1. Did graduates get jobs?**

- ▶ Overall, yes! Three-fourths worked at least one quarter in Washington in Year 1; over half worked all year.

## **2. Where did they find work?**

- ▶ Educational Services; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; Health Care & Social Assistance; Retail Trade.

## **3. How much did they earn?**

- ▶ \$36,000 on average in Year 1.

## **4. Do they continue with further education?**

- ▶ Yes, 1 in 5 do so right away and most of them do so at a Washington institution.